the existing 22 blocks its performance needs to be watched before the question of its extension can be taken up.

Lifting of Palmolien Oil by Kerala Supplies Corporation

*513. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation has been asked by the Central Government to lift their quota of Palmolien oil from the Mangalore Port instead of from Cochin which is the nearest available port;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for taking such a decision; and

(c) whether the road transport charges from Mangalore to Cochin is to be borne by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Kerala Government has been asked to lift its allocation of imported edible oils from Mangalore which is the regular depot of the STC for that State. Keeping in view the present high allocation, they can be permitted to take delivery of imported edible oils from ships at Cochin in case they are able to arrange suitable storage at the port.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Newsmen accompanying the Prime Minister on Foreign Tours

*514. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1362 given in the Rajya Sabhas on the 20th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'the Indian Post' dated the October 17, 1987 to the effect that the Government of India had flouted all the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India on October 5, 1987 in this regard;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to follow the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India in this regard; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government have seen the news item. It speaks of alleged discrimination in selecting the journalists accompanying the PM on his foreign tours and also refers to the guidelines issued by the Press Council for selection of journalists for official visits

(c) and (d) The Government have brought these guidelines to the notice of the concerned organisations. The principal criterion for selecting the journalists is to obtain best possible coverage in the print/electronic media. Due weightage is given to persons with expertise in covering the PM's engagements and the interest of representation to regions and languages.

Terrace Agriculture

*515. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to end Jhum (shifting cultivation) and popularise terrace agriculture to save forests; and